

The Times

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WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, APRIL 17.

Demand the Yeas and Nays:

Once more we desire to call the attention

of Democratic Members of the House of

Representatives to their duty to their country,

their party, their constituents and their

manhood, and ask them on this day

to demand and secure a yeas and nays

vote on the proposition of Mr. Dingley to

ignore the business of the nation, and adjourn

the House over to next Wednesday.

No hope of future appointment to desired

committees; no disinclination to incur the

displeasure of the Speaker, and no hesitation

to sacrifice personal modesty and com-

placency in the presence of an overpowering

unhappy power, should be allowed to stand

in the way of this duty.

It is highly necessary that the true meaning

of the constitutional revolution in-

volved in the current suppression of the

House of Representatives by its Speaker, and

the usurpation by him of all its legal

rights, prerogatives and functions, should

be placed before the country in the full

light of understanding. This can only be

done by the application of Democratic

action in opposition.

It is a flagrant and unconstitutional

usurpation in the Speaker to close the House

to the business of the country. It is a

contemptible in the membership to submit

to it. At least let it be shown that the

Democratic majority is not a consenting

party to the infamy.

It is stated that, on a recent occasion, a

motion decided by every consideration of

patriotism and party consistency, was

prevented because it was represented that

action of any kind would humiliate Mr.

Bailey. On the occasion of the meeting

today of the House of Representatives, we

wish to say, and to say it very earnestly,

that if anybody must be "humiliated," it

were better that it should be Mr. Bailey,

of Texas, rather than the whole Democratic

party of the United States.

Our Minister to Turkey.

The appointment of President Angell,

of Michigan University, as minister to Tur-

key, gives general satisfaction. He has a

distinguished record already as a diploma-

tist. During the Hayes' Administration he

went as plenipotentiary to China, to secure

a revision of the Burlingame treaty, and

fulfilled his mission within sixty days after

he presented his credentials. Later, he was

one of the commissioners appointed by Mr.

Cleveland to negotiate a treaty with Great

Britain, for the settlement of the fisheries

dispute.

Mr. McKinley has made an admirable

selection in sending President Angell to

Constantinople. The faculty alumni and

undergraduates of Michigan University,

however, rather wish that the honor had

fallen on other shoulders, as all unite in

feeling that it will be hard work to spare

him from the life and progress of the

institution, even for a year or two.

A New Man at the Plow.

It looks very much as if the new Sec-

retary of Agriculture had determined to

make his department what it ought to be

in the eyes of the nation. Up to this time

it has been avowedly one of the least im-

portant of the Cabinet portfolios. In mak-

ing up to the date, the man who got that place

has more often than not been a "left-over"

who did not get some other place, or has

been put into the position for geographical

reasons. Sometimes he has been a farmer

and sometimes a business man, and some-

times neither, but he has heretofore not

been a combination of the two.

Mr. Wilson was known when he was in

Congress as a most active advocate of the

interests of the farmers in his district.

This was not because he lived in a farming

community and wanted to be re-elected,

but because he really knew what they

needed, and took the shortest way to get

it. That is what he is doing now. He

is a practical farmer, having owned and

conducted a large farm of his own; and he

has been professor in an agricultural col-

lege long enough to get a broader view of

the subject of farming than most practical

farmers possess. Add to that his polit-

ical experience, which has not been

small, and it is evident that he has rare

qualifications for the duties of the Ag-

ricultural Department. Besides all that,

he has a shrewd Scotch head and a great

love of finding some way or other for the

farmer to make money.

The other day, at a wedding, he hap-

pened to sit beside a Baltimore man who

is in the grain business. Through this

Baltimore man he discovered that much

of our grain goes to Denmark, where it is

fed to cows, and that Denmark has a

great market for butter in London. Now,

the only American butter which has gone

to England is of the oleomargarine variety,

which doesn't recommend American butter

to the Prince of Wales' set. Secretary

Wilson went down to the Treasury De-

partment the next day, found that he

could use the funds of the Agricultural

Department to set Uncle Sam up in the

butter business, and straightway ordered

200 pounds of the best butter to be sent

to London and put on the market. It is

his purpose, through the agent of the

United States in London, to find out how

this superior article of butter is received,

what are the qualities desired by the

English people in that commodity, and

what, if anything, the Danish article

possesses in the way of color, flavor or

cheapness that makes it preferable to

ours. It is his idea that American farmers

would much better feed their grain to

their cows and make butter than send it to Denmark, when they are obliged to go without butter themselves, because they cannot get a fair price for their grain. It is his notion that the farm should supply all the wants of its inhabitants so far as possible. The surplus products may be sold in exchange for manufactured products which cannot be raised on the farm. That was the way it was with the yeomanry of the olden times, and if they did not raise immense crops of grain and fruit, they raised healthy crops of boys and girls and lived well themselves. They were far removed from the one-idea mechanic into which the mere laborer is developed, because, if necessary, they could turn their hands to a dozen different trades. The farmer of two generations ago was a gardener, chicken-fancier, florist (or his wife was), mechanic, carpenter, and as often as not a blacksmith and shoemaker. His calling developed him into an all-around man; and that is why so many great men were farmers' boys. In some farming communities the same conditions exist today. Secretary Wilson wishes to promote these conditions.

To the Democrats of the House.

On Saturday last a caucus of the Demo-

cratic members of the House was called

at the personal instigation of Mr. Joseph

W. Bailey, a Representative from Texas.

When the caucus met, Mr. Bailey offered

the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Democratic members

of the House of Representatives are willing

to consider any legislation which the Re-

publicans may propose to support if it is

good, to oppose it if it is bad. But

believing that most of the measures pro-

posed by the Republicans are opposed to

the best interests of the country, they will

not urge the Republicans to take action.

Although a majority of the members present

viewed Mr. Bailey's proposition with

suspicion, they adopted it, to avoid direct

reflection upon his alleged leadership upon

the occasion of its first attempted opera-

tion. But as soon as that had been done

he was placed in the witness box and

questioned as to his understanding of the

scope and extent of the action just taken,

in binding the caucus.

Mr. Bailey admitted that it was his in-

tervention and the object of the resolution

to bind the House Democracy to support

Mr. Dingley in his policy of adjournment

for three days at a time, and generally to

support the Speaker in his flagrant usurpation

of all power, authority and functions.

Upon this being made plain the Hon. David

A. De Armond offered another resolution,

explanatory of the first, which was as

follows:

Resolved, That nothing in the resolution

adopted should be construed as agreeing to

acquiescing in, or in anywise justifying

or excusing the course of the Republican

majority in the House in refusing to ap-

point the committee of the House to the

needless adjournments.

The De Armond resolution was imme-

diately adopted. As it operated to com-

pletely nullify the Bailey resolution, the

latter ceased to have existence upon its

adoption. The De Armond resolution, there-

fore, is the supreme law of the Democratic

majority in the House, and we expect to

see Democratic action today in accordance

with its spirit.

The Wild and Woolly Tariff.

All is not peace and pleasantry within

the charmed circle of the Senate Republican

tariff thinkers. The Western cattlemen

will have their 2 cents a pound on hides, and

the occidental shepherds, their 3, 12,

and 15 cents on wool, or else they will

combine to "defeat legislation," as one

of their representatives tersely has stated

the position. The sheep tenders even

claim to have the President on their side,

and assert that, if he uses any Executive

influence in the committee room, it will

be in the direction of more tariff for the

woolly Westerners, the agonized objections

of the Eastern manufacturers to the con-

trary notwithstanding.

Both the President and the business man-

ager fully understand the gravity of the

situation. They know that the wool and

hide duties will instantly destroy a fine

foreign trade, and restrict manufacturers

of woollen and leather goods to the home

market, already overdone; but they also

realize that they must pay this price for

the few Western votes without which the

Dingley bill would be an impossibility,

and they will take their medicine accord-

ingly.

Probably they argue that Eastern man-

ufacturers can be frightened into good be-

havior, later, with the bogey of free silver,

while nothing short of submission to the

West will save their banner measure. Evi-

dently they are not yet out of the woods,

and it would be immoral in them to do any

retroactive whistling.

Mr. Hanna says that he spends half of

his time in signing letters he has never

read, and the other half explaining lim-

itations of the civil service law. It might

be well if the rest of the Senate would

notice the busy quiet which prevails in

Mr. Hanna's corner of the room.

As the new Russian armor plate order is

said to be large enough to keep the Carnegie

plant busy for a year, probably that con-

cern will not be further interested in the

suppression of the House of Representatives

by the Speaker.

Secretary Gage's "retrospective" pec-

uliarities are becoming a little too chronic

to please the New York Republican machine.

His determination to have a gold brick

democratic appointed Assistant Treasurer

at New York, is likely to precipitate the

general party revolt expected a month or

two later on general principles.

It is said that the detachment of Lieut.

Peary from the Brooklyn navy yard will

greatly depress the chances for the Arctic

expedition, which it was expected would

be organized and endowed for him in New

York. Probably Secretary Long thinks

that the climate of California is nicer for

valuable lieutenants than the risks and

horrors of the Arctic circle.

The testimony given in the Oakes case,

now on trial in Boston, is a striking in-

stance of the difference in views which

prevails on this inconsistent sphere of

human action. One set of witnesses swears

that the captain's wife was a model of

kindness and gentleness, and that the

fare provided for the crew was good and

wholesome; another set swears that she

treated the sick with gross neglect, and

that the whole crew, except the captain and his wife, were nearly starved; one physician says that scurvy is a common disease, and another declares that during a career of forty years on the high seas, he has never seen a case of it. In the language of the ancient proverb, "you pay your money and you take your choice," but it is safe to say that whatever the truth of the matter is, that same crew will never slip under Captain and Mrs. Reed again.

There is a real flavor of Americanism about Secretary Sherman's dispatch to England, asserting that "the indiscriminate butchery of seals in Alaskan waters should be stopped immediately." Now, if he will use the same formula, and in place of "seals" insert "women and children," and for "Alaskan waters" substitute "the Island of Cuba," and send it to Madrid, that will be still more American and humane!

The tobacco trust has had better luck in Canada. The court there has held that the peculiar "factor" agreement of the combination "did not involve a conspiracy on the part of either party to it, but merely indicated a manner of disposing of goods, which was found to be profitable to the owners, a right which pertained to any citizen or legal person existing under the law."

Usually, when a revolution occurs in Honduras, the government is overthrown. The capital, Tegucigalpa, is situated in a hollow, surrounded by hills that completely command it. If the rebels have any artillery, that settles it. The Louisiana State Lottery Company recently has withdrawn from the country, and that may have paralyzed its activities.

But for the excellent work performed by the American Junta, at Paris, during our War of Independence, it is doubtful if we should have had much chance in the struggle. Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane occupied in Paris and Versailles, then identical positions that the Cuban representatives, Messrs. Tomas Estrada Palma, and Gonzalo de Quesada, now do in New York and Washington. The present is a time when it is well to remember these things.</